

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT:

Replace the Abstract with the following rewritten version:

A foil-type switching element includes~~comprises~~ a first carrier foil and a second carrier foil arranged at a ~~certain~~ distance from each other by means of a spacer, said~~the~~ spacer including~~comprising~~ at least one recess defining an active area of the switching element. At least two electrodes are arranged in the active area of the switching element between said~~the~~ first and second carrier foils in such a way that, in response to a pressure acting on the active area of the switching element, the first and second carrier foils are pressed together against the reaction force of the elastic carrier foils and an electrical contact is established between the at least two electrodes. According to the invention~~A~~ at least one of said~~the~~ first and second carrier foils includes~~comprises~~ a multi-layered configuration with an inner supporting foil and an outer elastic activation layer, the outer elastic activation layer being deformable in response to pressure acting thereon in such a way that the outer elastic activation layer presents a greater thickness in a central region of the active area than in a peripheral region of the active area, and thereby presses the inner supporting foil towards the other carrier foil in said the central region for introducing a force acting on the switching element into a central region of said active area of said switching element.